



PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of

Docket No: Q54370

Tsuyoshi INOUE, et al.

Appln. No.: 09/311,753

Group Art Unit: 1773

Confirmation No.: 1662

Examiner: Kevin M. Bernatz

Filed: May 14, 1999

For: SHEET FOR PROTECTING PAINT FILMS OF AUTOMOBILES

RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION

Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

This response accompanies the concurrent filing of a Request for Continued Examination (RCE) in connection with the above-captioned application. During prior prosecution, Applicants filed an Amendment on November 6, 2002, in which the remaining claims 2 and 3 were amended and converted into method claims. Claims 2 and 3 are directed to a method for protecting paint films of automobiles.

On November 20, 2002, the Examiner issued an Office Action, which included a restriction requirement between Group I, prior claims 2 and 3, drawn to a sheet, and Group II, present claims 2 and 3, drawn to a method for protecting paint films of automobiles. The Examiner argues that inventions I and II are related as product and process of use, and are distinct for the reasons given in the Office Action.

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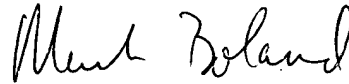
**RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION**  
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In response to the restriction requirement, Applicants respectfully elect Group II, present claims 2 and 3, without traverse. Accordingly, examination of claims 2 and 3 on the merits is now respectfully requested.

Applicants kindly request the Examiner to consider the patentability of claims 2 and 3 over the references of record, in light of the comments set forth in Applicant's November 6, 2002 Amendment. For the reasons set forth therein, Applicants respectfully submit that method claims 2 and 3 are patentable and earnestly request the Examiner's reconsideration of this issue.

Should any questions arise, do not hesitate to contact the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,



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Date: December 20, 2002